

## **HOME Program and Consortium Description**

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. It is the largest Federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

The program was designed to reinforce several important values and principles of community development:

- HOME's flexibility empowers people and communities to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities.
- HOME's emphasis on consolidated planning expands and strengthens partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector in the development of affordable housing.
- HOME's technical assistance activities and set-aside for qualified community-based nonprofit housing groups builds the capacity of these partners.
- HOME's requirement that Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) match 25 cents of every dollar in program funds mobilizes community resources in support of affordable housing.

The Cities of Fitchburg and Leominster have entered into a Mutual Cooperation Agreement to form a Consortium to participate jointly in the HOME Program. Each City is entitled to the amount of HOME Program funding based on its percentage of the total allocation to the consortium and may program the funding based on its Consolidated Plan and the priorities therein as they comply with the HOME Program Regulations. The City of Fitchburg is the lead entity of the Consortium and is responsible for insuring that the Consortium's HOME Program is carried out in compliance with the requirements of the HOME Program including those requirements concerning a Consolidated Plan in accordance with HUD regulations 24 CFR parts 92, and 91 respectively, and requirement of 24 CFR 92.305 (a)(5).